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by KOIKE Rintarou and TAGUCHI Masayuki

Black Joke v8 ch45

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Taguchi Masayuki & Koike Rintaro
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仕組まれた殺戮ゲームの意図は!?
事件の真相解明のため吉良一同が
訪れたのは閉鎖された世界―EDEN―。
そこは不自然な雰囲気に包まれていた。
奇妙で巨大な建造物。複製生産施設。
住民を洗脳する虚像の神。

EDENを設立した目論見、
そして首謀者の真意とは――!?
ランオーバーとジョニーも参戦。
混沌が更なる混沌へと導く…!!

ヤングチャンピオン コミックス
YC COMICS

ブラック・ジョーク 8

Taguchi Masayuki & Koike Rintaro

田口雅之
協力 小池倫太郎

秋田書店

COMIC
MASAYUKI TAGUCHI
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BLACK JOKE 8

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BLACK JOKE vol.8
Taguchi Masayuki
Kaiba Rintaro

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BLACK JOKE

ブラックジョーク

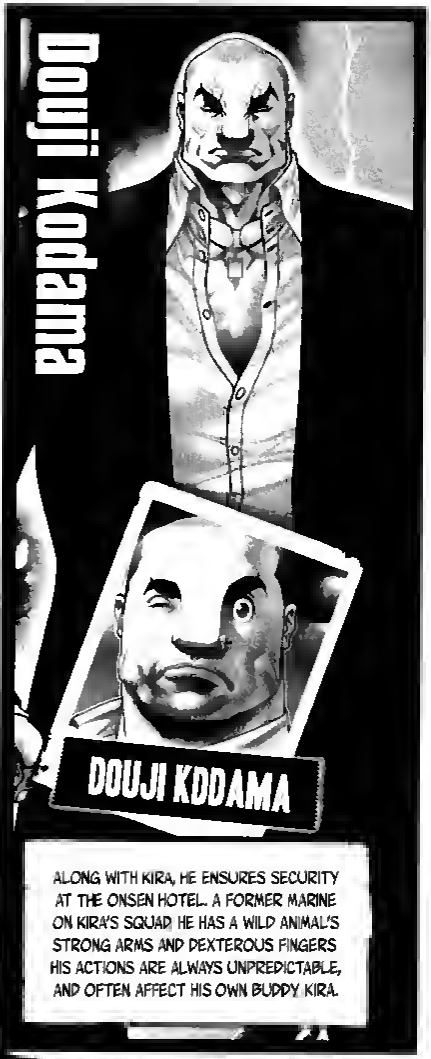
OVERVIEW

Characters

STORY

THE ISLAND OF HOPE IS LOCATED IN TOKYO BAY OF JAPAN, THE 51ST STATE OF AMERICA. WITH CASINOS AND LEGAL PROSTITUTION, ORGANIZED CRIME SYNDICATES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE DEALINGS THERE. THIS STORY REVOLVES AROUND THIS ISLAND, ALSO KNOWN AS NEON ISLAND, AND ITS SOLE BUSINESS UNDER JAPANESE MANAGEMENT, ONSEN HOTEL.

Kiyoshi Kira
KIYOSHI KIRA
AN EXECUTIVE OF THE ONLY JAPANESE CRIME SYNDICATE ON NEON ISLAND, AND THE MANAGER OF THE ONSEN HOTEL. A FORMER MARINE, HE IS VERY SMART, WELL-MANNERED AND SHREWD. HE USES ANY MEANS POSSIBLE TO GET HIS JOB DONE. HIS SPECIALTY IS NEGOTIATION, SO HE DEALS WITH MANY DANGEROUS JOBS. HE IS ALSO FLUENT IN MANY LANGUAGES AND IS A WOMANIZER.


Douji Kodama
DOUJI KODAMA
ALONG WITH KIRA, HE ENSURES SECURITY AT THE ONSEN HOTEL. A FORMER MARINE ON KIRA'S SQUAD, HE HAS A WILD ANIMAL'S STRONG ARMS AND DEXTEROUS FINGERS. HIS ACTIONS ARE ALWAYS UNPREDICTABLE, AND OFTEN AFFECT HIS OWN BUDDY KIRA.

Akari Kuroki
AKARI KUROKI
TODOME'S BODYGUARD, GOING OVER THE TOP WITH HER ASSASSIN-LIKE SKILLS. HER GOTH-LOLI FASHIONS HIDE A PARADE OF WEAPONRY WITH WHICH SHE SERVES UP A STORM OF SLAUGHTER. TYPICALLY RESERVED AND INDIFFERENT, HOWEVER, TOWARDS KODAMA SHE IS...?

Kensuke Todome
KENSUKE TODOME
KIRA'S AND KODAMA'S BOSS, AND PRESIDENT OF THE ONSEN HOTEL. HE IS A HYPOCRITE, SIMULTANEOUSLY KIND AND CRUEL. ALTHOUGH HE COOPERATES WITH MANY SYNDICATES ON NEON ISLAND, HE IS VERY WICKED AND BEWILDERS EVEN HIS OWN SUBORDINATES. HE IS A SINISTER AND MYSTERIOUS PERSON.

RUNOVER
A MEMBER OF THE SIONE FAMILY OF NAPLES, ITALY. THE LEGEND THAT HE RAN OVER A TRAITOR WITH HIS CUSTOMIZED WHEELCHAIR GAVE HIM THE NAME RUNOVER. HE IS SHORT-TEMPERED AND RUTHLESS, BUT HE HAS PRIDE AND RESPECTS AESTHETICS, SO HE'S POPULAR TO PEOPLE NEAR HIM.
RUNOVER

BLACK JOKE ch.45
THE FOURTH APPLE
第四の果実4
TAGUCHI MASAYUKI Assistant: KOIKE RINTAROU

WELL, DAMN...
(shock)
.....
WHAT A BIZARRELY ENOR-MOUS FELLA.
(smirk)
A 9-FOOT-TALL WEAKLING.

IT'D BURST WITH 13
HEY, I WONDER IF HER WOMB OVER-FLOWED. (grin)
THERE ARE 13 IN TOTAL. ALL LOOKING IDENTICAL.
13 KIDS.

THE GREATEST NUMBER OF SURVIVING FETUSES HAS BEEN SEVEN.
AND BESIDES...

HUMANS HAVE TWO, SO THEY CAN GIVE BIRTH TO TWINS.
SOME SAY THAT MULTIPLE PREGNANCIES ABOVE TWO ARE THE RESULT OF FERTILITY DRUGS
(used for infertility treatment)
MAMMALS SHOULD GIVE BIRTH TO NO MORE THAN THE NUMBER OF NIPPLES THEY HAVE
OF COURSE, THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS

BUT THEN, WHO ARE THESE MEN?
.....
THESE GUYS WERE PROBABLY ACTING INNOCENTLY.
(meaning they're naive.)
(laugh)
WELL, I DON'T HAVE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE,
BUT AFTER THINKING ABOUT HOW AKARI DESCRIBED THEIR BEHAVIOR...
WELL THEN NOW...
...?

YUP
.....
HE DIDN'T EVEN BUDGE
(troubled)
HIS FLESH FEELS LIKE GOD-KNOWS-WHAT
THIS IS THE SELLING POINT OF THESE KYOJIN-KUNS*
T/N: *LITTLE BOY - GIANTS
.....
ACCORDING TO AKARI, THEY'RE UNRUFFLED EVEN IF THEY'RE HIT WITH BULLETS
(surprise)
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY?
WHY IS THAT?

YOU'VE HEARD OF "SHOCK-ABSORBING MATERIALS," RIGHT?
THEY'RE SOFT, SILICON-BASED GEL-LIKE MATERIALS
EVEN IF YOU DROP A RAW EGG FROM A HEIGHT OF 30 METERS
ONTO A SHEET OF GEL ONLY 3 CM THICK,
IT CAN BE CAUGHT PERFECTLY WITHOUT EVEN ONE CRACK
IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY, THIS KYOUJIN-KUN'S WHOLE BODY
HAS AN EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE VERSION
HE'S COATED IN AN IMPROVED CREAM FORM OF THE COMPOUND
BY THE WAY, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A CREAM LIKE THIS BEFORE
CREAM?
YUP. A MAGICAL "CREAM."
IT'S PROBABLY A COATING OF TWO COMPONENTS COMBINED IN A TWO-LAYER STRUCTURE

THAT SHOCK-ABSORBING CREAM WE JUST TALKED ABOUT WOULD BE THE UPPER LAYER...
...ALONG WITH...
...A DEFENSE CREAM UNDERNEATH, WHICH COAGULATES THE INSTANT A MATERIAL TOUCHES IT.
NO WONDER...
THEY'RE HAIRLESS, OR ELSE THEY COULDN'T COAT THEM WITH CREAM.
thought

TOKE
THUS, YOU ARE ABLE TO INFLICT DAMAGE
...WITHOUT COAGULATING THE CREAM IN THE LOWER LAYER.
...WOULD BE A SLOW AND GRADUAL ATTACK LIKE THIS...
SO, THE WEAK POINT OF THIS CREAM...
EITHER WAY...
.....
THEN YOU JUST HAVE TO USE LOCKING OR STRANGLING TECHNIQUES
SLOW-LY.
...THESE OPPO NENTS ARE BAD MATCHED AGAINST
WHO WITH SPEED AND FLEXIBILITY SURPASS-ING HER ENEMIES FIGHTS BY ATTACKING THEIR VITAL POINTS.
?
...FURTHER MORE.
YOU CAN'T USE THAT STYLE UNLESS YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CON-TROL THESE GIANT BODIES

THE KYOUJIN-KUNS AREN'T CARELESS ENOUGH TO ALLOW A GRADUAL ATTACK
(wry smile)
AND EVEN IF THE GRAP-PLING TECH-NIQUES WERE TO WORK,
...WE BECOME SUITABLE PREY FOR THE REMAINING ELEVEN.
.....
HM...H!?

I'LL CRUSH THEM INTO BITS AND PIECES.
(anger)
I'M STRONGER.
AND FASTER.
POP
SHAD
Crack
YOU'LL END UP FIGHTING AGAINST THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
YOU KNOW, KODAMA...

AMERICA, OUR HOME-LAND.
YUP.
AMERICA?
OPEN
MAKING THEM ENEMIES AND "CRUSHING THEM TO BITS AND PIECES"
IS THE SAME AS A SNAKE DEVOURING ITS OWN TAIL.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ARE AMERICANS THE MASTERMINDS BEHIND THIS UNPLEASANT GAME?

IT'S AN ENHANCED-RESOLUTION IMAGE OF THE AREA AROUND THIS ISLAND.
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS
THEY'RE, WITHOUT A DOUBT, ONE OF THE MASTERMINDS.
BEEP
THIS BOAT HAS BEEN CIRCLING AROUND THE ISLAND SINCE DAYBREAK.
SOMETHING'S UNNATURAL.
(suspicion)
AND, THIS SUSPICIOUS LOOKING GUY..
AFTER RESEARCHING VARIOUS THINGS..
CLICK

IS A HIGH-RANKING PERSON IN THE CIA. THE UNITED STATES CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.....
WHY WOULD AMERICANS TRAMPLE ON PEOPLE FROM THEIR OWN COUNTRY?
LOOK AT THIS
HEH.

THIS IS ALSO AN IMAGE TAKEN THIS DAY.
YOU CAN SEE UNFORTUNATE SCENES LIKE THIS EVERY WHERE ON THIS ISLAND
IT MEANS WE AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE JUST A FEW OF THE VICTIMS OF THIS UNPLEASANT GAME
AK-47.
GUYS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST?

YLP JIHAD WARRIORS
THE LOSS OF THE PEOPLE HERE WOULD BE NO BIG SACRIFICE FOR THEIR HOME-LANDS - MOST OF US ARE FROM GANGS OR PRISONS
EVEN IF WE'RE KILLED, WELL, NO PROBLEM.
IT SEEMS LIKE THOSE THREE SOLDIERS ALSO MET SOME PROBLEMS
(sad smile)

WELL,
IN SHORT,
AN EXPERIMENT OR A DEMONSTRATION
ISN'T THAT WHAT IT IS? THIS GAME'S REAL INTENTION
DEMONSTRATION?
ARE THEY MERCHANDIZING THE "BULLET-PROOF CREAM" YOU EXPLAINED EARLIER?
AND THE INNOCENCE OF THE KYOUJIN-KUNS.
(laugh)
A PROOF OF THAT IS...
—THIS
...?!

A SMALL HIDDEN CAMERA.
THE IMAGES ARE PROBABLY TRANSMITTED TO THE "CIRCLING BOAT GUY."
AND IF IT WERE JUST FOR KILLING,
THERE'D BE NO NEED TO GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE
THEY WANT TO CONFIRM THE COMBAT CAPABILITY OF THE MERCHANDISE
NO WONDER THEY OH-SO-POLITELY PROVIDED WEAPONS TO THEIR EXPERIMENTAL SACRIFICES

NO, NO.
THIS NOTEPAD BELONGS TO ME.
MY ORIGINAL ♡ DESIGN.
THIS SCHEME OF THEIRS IS REALLY ANNOYING
KIYOSHI KIRA,
DID THEY GIVE YOU THAT USEFUL LITTLE COMPUTER NOTEPAD?
I CREATED SOMETHING THAT CAN BE HIDDEN IN THE HEEL OF A SHOE OR UNDER A PATCH OF FALSE SKIN ON THE UPPER ARM.
...SINCE YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MAY HAPPEN.
AFTER ALL, IN REALITY, WE'RE PRISONERS.
(laugh)

IT CAN BE CHARGED MANUALLY AND LOOK, THERE'S EVEN A SPARE BATTERY!
♡
METICULOUS CRAFTS-MANSHIP IS CHARMING AND LOVABLE
♡
CLANG
AND THEY ONLY GAVE KODAMA A GLOCK
YOU CAN'T CALL THIS METICULOUS CRAFTS-MANSHIP
Grumble!
THEY ONLY GAVE ME THIS WALTHER PPK
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FIGHT WHEN THE ENEMY IS YOUR OWN COUNTRY?!
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO, KIYOSHI KIRA?!

FIRST, WE NEED TO ESCAPE THIS ISLAND.
.....
THERE'S ANOTHER ISLAND, FAIRLY FAR AWAY FROM HERE.
BUT, FROM THIS REFLECTION, I SEEM TO SEE A BUILDING THERE,
AND IT'S PRETTY LARGE.
IT'S HARD TO SEE, EVEN IF I ZOOM WAY IN
(because it's so far).
AND
A LITTLE BEFORE YOU GUYS ARRIVED HERE
AN AIRPLANE TOOK OFF FROM THAT ISLAND.
♡ This is good news.

ONLY IF WE CAN CRUSH THE KYOUJIN-KUNS TO "BITS AND PIECES"
YOU INTEND TO ESCAPE BY STEALING THAT AIR-PLANE
EASY VICTORY!!
HMPH!!
Hii
VERY WELL! WELL THEN...
WELL, I DON'T HAVE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE,

NOW THAT WE'RE IN FULL DARKNESS, LET'S MOVE NOW!
...BUT AFTER THINKING ABOUT HOW AKARI DESCRIBED THEIR BEHAVIOR...
...THESE GUYS WERE PROBABLY ACTING INNOCENTLY.
(meaning they're naive.)
(laugh)

...AND SHE ALSO..
SHE ALSO SMELLED REALLY NICE!!
KODAMA DOUJI..
AND..
SHE WAS SOFT
YEAH
THAT... HUMAN WHO RAN AWAY...
WAS SOFT..
!

ZZZ...
ロオ
HM?
THERE'S SOME-THING...
...I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT.

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